

The Compass School

June 24, 2016 Meeting of the School Council

Minutes

Meeting Location: The Compass School, 537 Old North Road, Kingston,
RI 02881

Date and Time of Meeting: June 24, 2016 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Susannah Strong (SS) leaves at 1:30 pm , Fritz Lanz (FL),
Rachel Axelson (RA), Nicole Gardner (NG) Polly Cuddy
(PC) Heidi Vazquez (HV) Linsey Trombino (LT)
Michelle Salisbury (MS)

Others Present: Brandee Lapisky (BL), Hilary Downes-Fortune (HD)

Absent: Marisa Gallagher (MG)

Presiding Officer: SS

1. Call to Order: Susannah Strong, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 10:45 AM.

2. Roll Call

3. State of Charter Schools Presentation (15 min)

BL presented on the political and financial state of charter schools in RI currently.

4. FY 16 Spend Down Authorization (10 min)

- a. Discussion/Vote to authorize the Director to make capital purchases using the FY16 budget surplus monies.**

HV motions to purchase 3 new HVAC, 2 5-ton condensers, and a 3-ton condenser for the main building

SS seconds

Discussion: This will fix the heating and cooling units that need to be replaced in the main building.

Vote to purchase 3 HVAC, 2 5-ton condensers, and a 3-ton condenser for the main building

In Favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

SS motions to purchase a swing set with 6 swings

RA seconds

Discussion: 6 swings would be valued by the community. Council suggested buying one to not take up too much space as the school plans more play and garden spaces BL reports that adding this new play structure to our current insurance coverage will come at a minimal cost.

In Favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

HV motions to spend up to \$15,000 for the "wood look" lockers for the Investigator and Navigator Steps

RA seconds

Discussion: BL previewed the lockers that Student Voice and Leadership selected and measured. Several raised concerns about the style, but the consensus was that the school needs an organization system for students to improve the appearance of the main building.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes.

4. FY 17 Budget Presentation: refresher and discussion (20 min)

a. [FY 17 Budget Link](#)

BL shared budget. Council members asked questions about particular line items.

5. Presentation and discussion on FY17 budget adjustments due to H7454 cuts (40 min)

a. Class size ratio discussion

Increasing class size beyond the 2 student increase that has been already approved isn't necessary for FY17. Increasing class size will be necessary to grow the school and programs or manage future cuts. Council will begin developing a process for adding students at next month's retreat as we examine the strategic plan.

b. Other fiscal options discussion

6. Discussion/vote on FY 17 Budget (20 min)

HV motions to approve the FY17 Budget

RA seconds

Discussion: none

In Favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

7. Contracts (15 min)

a. Director's Contract

b. Review of all employee contracts

i. [Teacher contract template](#)

c. Discussion/Vote to release the 2016-2017 employee contracts

HV motions release the 2016- 2017 employee contracts

RA seconds

Discussion: BL reviewed the changes to the contract.

In Favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

8. New Business

none

9. Public Comment

none

10. Adjourned 1:44 pm

The public is welcome to any meeting of the School Council or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact the Student Service Coordinator, Julie Wynsen at (401) 788-8322 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Any changes in the agenda will be posted on The Compass School's website and place of business, and will be electronically filed with the secretary of state at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.